

**In the Claims**

---

Claims 1-35 (withdrawn)

36. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:

a synthetic organic polymer matrix having covalently bound ~~or complexed~~ thereto at least one ~~a~~-contact-killing, non leaching, charged antimicrobial side chain such that the synthetic organic polymer matrix does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

C1 37. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said synthetic organic polymer matrix is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyethylene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate (glycol modified), and polycarbonate.

38. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said synthetic organic polymer matrix is a straight chain polymer.

39. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is selected from the group consisting of ~~benzalkonium halide compounds~~, quaternary ammonium salts, pyridinium salts, phosphonium salts, and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is positively charged.

---

C2 41. (New) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is at least one benzalkonium halide compound.

Page 3  
Serial No. 09/834,842  
June 18, 2003

CA  
con 42. (New) The composition of claim 39 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is at  
least one benzalkonium halide compound.

---